

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 October 2023 - Year A

**“A landowner leased his vineyard to other farmers.”**

### Something to Think About

God has given us the world to look after and ‘cultivate’. What are we doing to care for the world? What are we doing to care for the people of the world who have less than we do?

### The Story

In today's gospel, the vineyard represents the Jewish nation. The owner is God. The servants represent the prophets sent by God to challenge and call back those who have lost their way. Many of these prophets were killed. The son who finally comes is of course Jesus!

### The Scriptures

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:33-43**

Jesus told the chief priests and leaders to listen to this story:

"A land owner once planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it and dug a pit to crush the grapes in. He also built a lookout tower.

"Then he rented out his vineyard and left the country.

"When it was harvest time, the owner sent some servants to get his share of the grapes. But the renters grabbed those servants. They beat up one, killed one, and stoned one of them to death. He then sent more servants than he did the first time. But the renters treated them in the same way.

"Finally, the owner sent his own son to the renters, because he thought they would respect him. But when they saw the man's son, they said,

'Someday he will own the vineyard. Let's kill him! Then we can have it all for ourselves.' So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him."

Jesus asked, "When the owner of that vineyard comes, what do you suppose he will do to those renters?"

The chief priests and leaders answered, "He will kill them in some horrible way.

Then he will rent out his vineyard to people who will give him his share of grapes at harvest time."

Jesus replied, "Surely you know that the Scriptures say, 'The stone that the builders tossed aside is now the most important stone of all'. This is something the Lord has done, and it is amazing to us. I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken from you and given to people who will do what he demands."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video. [Who is God?](#)



## Group Discussion

This parable can tell us some things about God, the owner of the vineyard. It tells us that God trusts us. The owner rented out the vineyard trusting that it would be looked after.

The parable also tells us that God is patient. Servant after servant is sent to see if the people would behave differently! Finally it tells us about God's justice.

What is your image of God – who is God for you? What do you think God is like? What words or images describe how God loves, how God acts, how God is just?

## Praying For Others

**Leader:** Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

**Reader 1:** We pray that our leaders will be honest people. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader 2:** We pray that we will come to know God better. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader 3:** We pray that we will do the right thing even when it is hard. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader 4:** We pray for our families and friends. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader 5:** We pray that we will be people of peace and patience. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
Help us to care for the world and to  
treat God's creation with respect.  
Please teach us to be peacemakers  
wherever we go.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

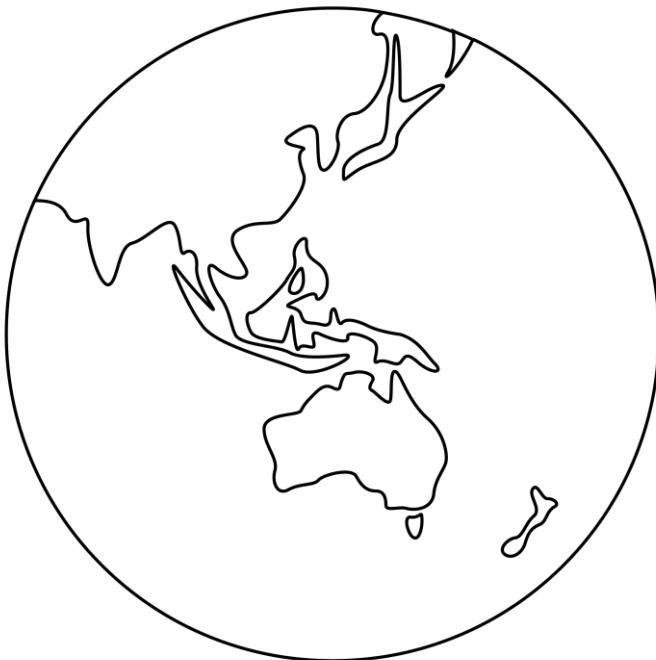
### Care for the Earth

*You will need: a template for each child, a blank sheet of paper for children to trace their hands, scissors, colouring pencils, glue.*

- 1) Invite children to colour the picture of the Earth. When finished, cut out the heart shape and stick it onto the Earth.
- 2) Assist children to trace and cut out their hand shapes.
- 3) Glue the two hand shapes behind the Earth as if holding it.



**Care for our Earth**



**Care for our Earth**



JESUS TOLD THIS STORY.

A man planted grape vines.



He made a tower and built a wall  
so that he could make wine.



He got people to look after it for him.  
They grew the grapes and made the wine.



The owner then sent his son to collect the  
grapes and the wine that belonged to him.  
But the workers kicked him out  
and wouldn't give him any.



WHEN THE OWNER COMES,  
WHAT WILL HE DO?

*Finish the story...*



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**LOOK AFTER WHAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE**